

UNCLASSIFIED

**CASE 1449**  
**MONTEZ, A. - Y**

**DTG**

142233Z MAR 11

**FROM**

FM JPAC ANNEX CAMP SMITH HI

**CONTROLS**

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SECTION 1 OF 4

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/\*\*\*\*\* THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*/

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**BODY**

SUBJ: DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE 1449 (SITES VM-02597)  
CONDUCTED DURING JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY 10-2VM (98TH JFA) IN THE SO  
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SUBJ/DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF CASE 1449 (SITES VM-02597)  
CONDUCTED DURING JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY 10-2VM (98TH JFA) IN THE  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

AKNLDG/COMMENTS IN THIS REPORT ARE BASED ON FIELD ANALYSIS AND ARE  
NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE FINAL ANALYTICAL CONCLUSIONS.

REF/A/RMG/JPAC ANNEX CAMP SMITH HI(UC)/011902Z MAR 11.

REF/B/RMG/JPAC ANNEX CAMP SMITH HI(UC)/302030Z DEC 08.

REF/C/DOC/JAMES R. BOURKE/20 NOV 01.

REF/D/DOC/1:50,000 SCALE MAP.

NARR/REFERENCES:

A. REF A IS THE DETAILED REPORT OF INVESTIGATION (DRI) OF CASE  
1449 CONDUCTED DURING THE JOINT FIELD ACTIVITY (JFA) 10 1VM (98TH  
JFA) IN THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (S.R.V.).

B. REF B IS THE DRI OF CASE 1449 CONDUCTED DURING JFA 09 1VM  
(93RD JFA) IN THE S.R.V.

C. REF C IS THE INTERIM REPORT NUMBER TWO OF THE SEARCH FOR THE  
BODY OF ANASTACIO MONTEZ.

D. REF D IS MAP DATA: NAME: DAK MOT LOP; SHEET: 6538 III;  
SERIES: L7014; EDITION: 3-AMS, 1968.

RMKS/1. SUMMARY.

A. CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS: CASE 1449 INVOLVES THE 24 MAY 1969  
LOSS OF A U.S. SPECIAL FORCES SOLDIER, COMMANDING A CIVILIAN  
IRREGULAR DEFENSE GROUP (CIDG) COMPANY, WHEN HIS UNIT ENGAGED A  
LARGE ENEMY FORCE IN RO KOI VILLAGE, SA THAY DISTRICT, KON TUM  
PROVINCE. DURING THE FIGHTING, THE SOLDIER WAS BADLY WOUNDED AND  
SUBSEQUENTLY DIED. THE SOLDIER'S BODY WAS LEFT BEHIND AS HIS UNIT  
WAS FORCED TO WITHDRAW. THE SOLDIER IS STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR.

B. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION: FROM 10-12 MARCH 2010, DURING JFA  
10-2VM (98TH JFA), ONE FIRSTHAND U.S. WITNESS, AND ONE FIRSTHAND

Reviewed by DPMO  
IAW 50 USC 435 Note  
&  
DOD 5400.7-R  
Date 17-Mar-2011  
Initialed By: R. W.

QCd by DPMO  
Date 22-Mar-2011  
Initialed By: L. M.  
R.

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AUSTRALIAN WITNESS LED INVESTIGATION TEAM ONE (IT1) TO AN ALLEGED SURFACE REMAINS SITE REGARDING CASE 1449 IN MO RAI VILLAGE, SA THAY DISTRICT, KON TUM PROVINCE, S.R.V. IT1 SURVEYED THIS SITE WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. THESE WITNESSES ALSO CONFIRMED THAT A PREVIOUSLY-SURVEYED SITE (REF A) IN THE SAME AREA WAS NOT WHERE THE CASE 1449 SOLDIER'S BODY WAS LEFT.

C. POSSIBLE REMAINS/MATERIAL EVIDENCE/IDENTIFICATION (ID) MEDIA:  
IT1 RECOVERED SEVERAL PIECES OF VIETNAM WAR ERA U.S. MILITARY LOAD BEARING EQUIPMENT (LBE). IT1 DID NOT RECOVER OR RECEIVE ANY POSSIBLE REMAINS OR ID MEDIA WHILE INVESTIGATING CASE 1449.

2. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION.

A. PURPOSE:

(1) HAVE U.S. WITNESSES, MR. GERARD DELLWO AND MR. PAUL AURIEMMA, AND AUSTRALIAN WITNESS, MR. KEITH PAYNE, LEAD THE JOINT TEAM TO THE LOCATION THEY LEFT SFC MONTEZ'S BODY; SURVEY THE LOCATION THEY INDICATE FOR EVIDENCE OF REMAINS OR A POSSIBLE BURIAL SITE (PARTIALLY ACCOMPLISHED; SEE PARA'S 2.G., AND 2.I., BELOW).

(2) TAKE THE WITNESSES ABOVE TO THE LOCATION SURVEYED DURING 10-1VM NEAR GRID COORDINATES (GC) 48P YB 89703 10967 IN RO KOI VILLAGE (XAX ROWF KOWI), SA THAY DISTRICT, KON TUM PROVINCE. HAVE THEM CONFIRM OR DENY THIS AS THE LOCATION THEY LEFT SFC MONTEZ'S BODY (PARTIALLY ACCOMPLISHED; SEE PARA'S 2.E., AND 2.G., BELOW).

B. ON 9 MARCH 2010, IT1 ARRIVED IN KON TUM CITY TO INVESTIGATE TWO CASES IN KON TUM PROVINCE.

C. TEAM COMPOSITION:

(1) U.S. CONTINGENT:

(A) [REDACTED] JPAC, TEAM LEADER.

(B) [REDACTED] JPAC, ASSISTANT TEAM LEADER/LEAD

INVESTIGATOR/LINGUIST.

(C) [REDACTED] JPAC, ANTHROPOLOGIST.

(b)(3) (D) [REDACTED] JPAC, INVESTIGATOR/LINGUIST.

(b)(6) (E) [REDACTED] JPAC, INVESTIGATOR/LINGUIST.

(F) [REDACTED] JPAC, INVESTIGATOR/LINGUIST.

(G) [REDACTED] JPAC, LIFE SUPPORT

INVESTIGATOR (LSI).

(H) [REDACTED] JPAC, MEDIC.

(I) [REDACTED] JPAC, EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

DISPOSAL (EOD) TECHNICIAN.

(J) [REDACTED] JPAC, PHOTOGRAPHER.

(2) VIETNAM OFFICE FOR SEEKING MISSING PERSONS (VNOSMP)  
CONTINGENT:

(A) SRCOL NGUYEN MAU THUY (NGUYEENX MAAUJ THUYR), TEAM LEADER.

(B) MR. NGUYEN HONG CHIEN (NGUYEENX HOONGF CHIEENS), TEAM MEMBER.

(C) MR. LE NGOC TAN (LEE NGOCJ TAANS), TEAM MEMBER.

(D) MR. NGUYEN TIEN HAI (NGUYEENX TIEENS HAIR), TEAM MEMBER.

(E) MR. HA VAN AN (HAF VAWN AN), TEAM MEMBER.

(F) MS. NGUYEN HOANG ANH (NGUYEENX HOANGF ANH), TEAM MEMBER.

(3) KON TUM PROVINCE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE CONTINGENT:

(A) MR. NGUYEN THANH DUOC (NGUYEENX THANH F DWOCJ), TEAM LEADER.

(B) MR. TRAN ANH DUNG (TRAANF ANH DZUNGX), TEAM MEMBER.

(C) MR. PHAM NGOC QUYEN (PHAMJ NGOCJ QUYEENF), TEAM

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MEMBER.

(D) MR. NGUYEN VAN HUNG (NGUYEENX VAWN HWNG), TEAM

MEMBER.

(E) MR. NGUYEN THE VINH (NGUYEENX THEES VINH), TEAM

MEMBER.

(F) MR. TRAN DINH HIEU (TRAANF DDINHF HIEEUR), BORDER

OFFICER

(4) SA THAY DISTRICT PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE CONTINGENT:

(A) MR. NGUYEN DUY KIEN (NGUYEENX DUY KIEN), TEAM LEADER.

(B) MR. VO TRI DUNG (VOX TRIS DZUNGX), TEAM MEMBER.

(C) MR. NGUYEN VAN HAI (NGUYEENX VAWN HAI), TEAM MEMBER.

(5) RO KOI VILLAGE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE CONTINGENT:

(A) MR. A TRUONG (A TRWONGF), TEAM LEADER.

(B) MR. A HIM (A HIM), TEAM MEMBER.

D. ON 9 MARCH 2010, IT1 MET WITH THE VNOSMP CONTINGENT AT THE HOANG VAN HOTEL IN KON TUM CITY, KON TUM PROVINCE, TO DISCUSS THE

/\*\*\*\*\* BEGINNING OF SECTION 2 \*\*\*\*\*/

INVESTIGATION PLAN. THE VNOSMP TEAM INFORMED IT1 THAT THE CASE WAS READY TO INVESTIGATE.

E. ON 10 MARCH 2010, IT1 DEPARTED THE HOANG VAN HOTEL IN KON TUM CITY AND DROVE NORTH ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY 14 (QL14) FOR APPROXIMATELY 18 MINUTES. IT1 THEN TURNED WEST ONTO PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY 675 (TL 675) AND DROVE FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AND TWENTY MINUTES TO VEHICLE DISMOUNT POINT ONE (VDP1) LOCATED AT GC 48P YB 89093 11075 (9 SATELLITES, +/- 5 METERS OF ERROR, AND 647 METERS OF ELEVATION - IT1 OBTAINED ALL GC USING A GARMIN GPSMAP 60CSX GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) RECEIVER, USING THE INDIAN THAILAND MAPPING DATUM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED). A SECOND IT1 ELEMENT, ACCOMPANIED BY U.S. WITNESS, MR. DELLWO, DROVE FURTHER SOUTH APPROXIMATELY 400 METERS TO A SECOND VDP (VDP2) AT GC 48P YB 89212 10660 (8 SATELLITES, +/- 6 METERS OF ERROR, AND 651 METERS OF ELEVATION).

(1) FROM VDP1, ONE ELEMENT OF IT1, LED BY THE AUSTRALIAN WITNESS, MR. PAYNE, WALKED EAST FOR APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES TO THE SITE SURVEYED DURING JFA 10-1VM (REF A) LOCATED AT GC 48P YB 89709 10976 (9 SATELLITES, +/- 6 METERS OF ERROR, AND 595 METERS OF ELEVATION). AFTER FAMILIARIZING AND SEARCHING THIS AREA AND CONDUCTING MAP RECONNAISSANCE, MR. PAYNE DETERMINED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE AREA HIS TEAM LEFT THE CASE 1449 UNACCOUNTED-FOR INDIVIDUAL'S BODY. HIS TEAM HAD NOT MOVED THAT FAR NORTH. MR. PAYNE INDICATED AN AREA ON A SPUR LINE APPROXIMATELY 400 METERS SOUTHWEST OF THIS LOCATION IN THE VICINITY OF GC 48P YB 894 107 AS WHERE HE BELIEVED THEY LEFT THE CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL BEFORE HEADING UPSLOPE NORTHWEST TO RETURN TO THE 1ST MOBILE STRIKE FORCE BATTALION (1ST MSFB) BASE CAMP ON HILL 668, VICINITY OF GC 48P YB 892 109.

(2) IT1'S ELEMENT 1 DEPARTED THIS SITE AND MOVED SOUTHWEST APPROXIMATELY 400 METERS TO A SITE AT GC 48P YB 89451 10777. MR. PAYNE CONDUCTED A SURFACE SEARCH ALONG THIS SPUR LINE AND BELIEVED THIS WAS IN THE AREA THEY LEFT THE CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL'S BODY. IT1'S ELEMENT 1 DID NOT SURVEY THIS SITE AT THIS TIME IN ORDER TO RETURN THE NEXT DAY WITH THE FULL IT1 TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH SURVEY.

F. WHILE IT1'S ELEMENT 1 SEARCHED THE TWO SITES ABOVE, IT1'S ELEMENT 2, LED BY MR. DELLWO, DEPARTED VDP2 SOUTHEAST TO THE HILLTOP, VICINITY OF GC 48P YB 892 105, WHERE THE 1ST MSFB UNITS WERE ENGAGED DURING THE CASE 1449 INCIDENT. HERE, MR. DELLWO SEARCHED THE AREA ATTEMPTING TO FIND WHERE HE WAS DURING THE BATTLE

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AND WHERE HE HAD PULLED OFF THE HILLTOP AND OFF THE RIDGELINE TO THE EAST AND MET UP WITH THE WOUNDED CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL AND THE OTHER 1ST MSFB MEDIC, MR. PAUL AURIEMMA. FROM HERE, MR. DELLWO LED IT1'S ELEMENT 2 EAST OFF THE RIDGELINE AND DOWN SLOPE TRYING TO LOCATE THE HIDE POSITION WHERE HE, MR. AURIEMMA, AND THE WOUNDED CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL WERE WHEN MR. PAYNE FOUND THEM AND BEGAN LEADING THEM BACK TO THE 1ST MSFB. AFTER LEADING IT1'S ELEMENT 2 EAST FOR APPROXIMATELY 300 METERS DOWN STEEP TERRAIN TO GC 48P YB 89395 10373 (8 SATELLITES, +/- 7 METERS OF ERROR, AND 586 METERS OF ELEVATION), MR. DELLWO DETERMINED THAT THIS TERRAIN WAS TOO STEEP AND DIFFICULT TO NAVIGATE, SO THEY HAD NOT BEEN IN THIS AREA, AND THAT HE MUST HAVE MOVED OFF THE RIDGELINE FURTHER NORTH.

G. ON 11 MARCH 2010, IT1 RETURNED TO VDP1; FROM HERE, IT1 TOOK MR. DELLWO TO THE SITE SURVEYED DURING JFA 10-1VM (REF A), MR. DELLWO CLAIMED THIS WAS NOT THE AREA WHERE THE CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL'S BODY WAS LEFT. AFTER MR. DELLWO CONFIRMED THAT WAS NOT THE RIGHT AREA IT1, MR. PAYNE AND MR. DELLWO HIKED SOUTHEAST FOR APPROXIMATELY 500 METERS TO THE SITE AT GC 48P YB 89451 10777 (9 SATELLITES, +/- 6 METERS OF ERROR, AND 625 METERS OF ELEVATION) WHICH MR. PAYNE POINTED OUT THE PREVIOUS DAY. HERE, IT1 CONDUCTED A PEDESTRIAN/SUBSURFACE SEARCH, USING ONE EXCALIBUR II METAL DETECTOR, OF AN APPROXIMATE 15-X-12-METER AREA WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. IT1 ESTABLISHED A LARGE TREE AT THIS GC AS THE SITE DATUM AND ENGRAVED 10-2VM IN THE TREE AND PAINTED IT WITH RED PAINT. IT1 USED A LARGE BURNT DEAD TREE LYING UP-AND-DOWN SLOPE, NORTH TO SOUTH, AT THE NORTHEASTERN MOST EDGE OF TO MARK THIS SITE. AFTER SEARCHING THE AREA, MR. DELLWO AGREED THIS COULD POSSIBLY BE THE AREA THE CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL'S BODY WAS LEFT.

H. AFTER THE SITE SURVEY, MR. PAYNE AND MR. DELLWO WANTED TO RECONNOITER THE NEXT SPUR-LINE JUST SOUTH OF THE SURVEYED SITE; THEREFORE, IT1 HIKED SOUTH FOR APPROXIMATELY 150 METERS TO AN AREA ON THIS SPUR-LINE AT GC 48P YB 89349 10703 (11 SATELLITES, +/- 5 METERS OF ERROR, AND 598 METERS OF ELEVATION). HERE, IT1 AND BOTH WITNESSES CONDUCTED A PEDESTRIAN SEARCH OF AN APPROXIMATE 150-X-50-METER AREA WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. MR. PAYNE AND MR. DELLWO BOTH DETERMINED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE AREA THEY LEFT THE CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL'S BODY.

I. FOLLOWING THE PEDESTRIAN SEARCH, IT1 RETURNED TO THE FIRST SURVEYED SITE AREA WHERE MR. PAYNE AND MR. DELLWO CONTINUED SEARCHING THE AREA. THEY INDICATED ANOTHER AREA JUST SOUTH, DOWN SLOPE OF THE FIRST SURVEYED SITE AS ALSO POSSIBLY BEING WHERE THE CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL'S BODY WAS LEFT AT GC 48P YB 89452 10751 (10 SATELLITES, +/- 5 METERS OF ERROR, AND 617 METERS OF ELEVATION). THIS SITE IS JUST DOWN SLOPE SOUTH OF THE SURVEYED SITE, WITH ONLY A FIVE METER AREA OF THICK VEGETATION AND TREES SEPARATING THE TWO AREAS; THUS, THIS AREA IS ACTUALLY ONE SITE COVERING AN APPROXIMATE 30-X-1 METER AREA.

J. ON 12 MARCH 2010, IT1 INTERVIEWED MR. PAYNE AND MR. DELLWO AT THE HOANG VAN HOTEL IN KON TUM CITY. THE WITNESSES PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(1) WITNESS ONE:

(A) NAME: MR. GERARD DELLWO.

(B) AGE: 63.

(C) RESIDENCE AND LENGTH OF TIME THERE: [REDACTED]

(b)(6)

[REDACTED] IFELONG RESIDENT.

(D) CURRENT OCCUPATION: U.S. POST OFFICE.

(E) OCCUPATION AT TIME OF INCIDENT: SPECIAL FORCES MEDIC/SGT/E-5.

(F) LOCATION AT TIME OF INCIDENT: INCIDENT LOCATION.

(G) BACKGROUND: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A JOINT TEAM INTERVIEWED MR. DELLWO.

(2) WITNESS TWO:

(A) NAME: MR. KEITH PAYNE.

(B) AGE: 76.

(C) RESIDENCE AND LENGTH OF TIME THERE: [REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\* BEGINNING OF SECTION 3 \*\*\*\*\*

[REDACTED] LIFELONG RESIDENT.

(b)(6)

(D) CURRENT OCCUPATION: RETIRED.

(E) OCCUPATION AT TIME OF INCIDENT: AUSTRALIAN S.A.S. CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2; 1ST MSFB 212 COMPANY COMMANDER.

(F) LOCATION AT TIME OF INCIDENT: INCIDENT LOCATION.

(G) BACKGROUND: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A JOINT TEAM INTERVIEWED MR. PAYNE.

(H) COMBINED STATEMENT:

((1)) ON 24 MAY 1969 AT APPROXIMATELY 1430, THE WITNESSES DEPARTED THE 1ST MSFB BASE CAMP ON HILL 668 MOVING SOUTH ACROSS THE RIDGELINE TO OCCUPY THE HILLTOP IN THE VICINITY OF GC 48P YB 892 105. THEY WERE MOVING WITH TWO COMPANIES (CO), 212 AND 213, ABREAST, WITH WO2 PAYNE COMMANDING THE 212 CO AND THE CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL COMMANDING THE 213 CO. 1LT JAMES, THE ACTING 1ST MSFB BATTALION COMMANDER, LED A HEADQUARTERS COMPANY BEHIND 212 AND 213. AS THEY WERE MOVING, A B52 CIRCLING OVERHEAD CAME UP ON THEIR RADIO FREQUENCY AND TOLD THEM "I HAVE ORDNANCE ON BOARD. DO YOU NEED IT?" SO THEY HAD THE B52 DROP THREE 500-POUND BOMBS ON THE ENEMY POSITIONS NEAR THE HILLTOP. THEY THEN OCCUPIED POSITIONS ON TOP OF THE HILL AT APPROXIMATELY 1530 HOURS.

((2)) AT APPROXIMATELY 1600 HOURS, A SUPERIOR ENEMY FORCE, A BATTALION OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN) 66TH REGIMENT, ATTACKED BOTH COMPANIES FROM THE SOUTH AND THE EAST. AT APPROXIMATELY 1730 HOURS, DUE TO THE ENEMY'S SUPERIOR FIREPOWER AND THE FACT THAT THE ETHNIC MINORITY TROOPS COMPRISING THE MAJORITY OF THE 1ST MSFB'S FORCES HAD ABANDONED THEIR POSITIONS AND WERE FLEEING THE ENGAGEMENT AREA RUNNING NORTH TRYING TO GET BACK TO THE 1ST MSFB'S BASECAMP, THE 212 AND 213 CO'S PULLED OFF THE HILLTOP. AT THIS TIME, MR. DELLWO PULLED OFF THE HILLTOP TO THE NORTH AND THEN MOVED EAST OFF THE RIDGELINE WHERE HE MET UP WITH 1LT JAMES, SGT PAUL AURIEMMA, ANOTHER AUSTRALIAN S.A.S. WARRANT OFFICER, WO2 LATHAM, AND THE WOUNDED CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL WHO MR. DELLWO SAID HAD BEEN SHOT THROUGH THE JAW, DETACHING HIS JAW, AND THE BULLET GOING INTO HIS LEFT SHOULDER. HERE, THEY MOVED INTO A HIDE AREA, WHICH HE NOW BELIEVES WAS IN VICINITY OF GC 48P YB 8935 1057. IN THE HIDE POINT, MR. DELLWO AND MR. AURIEMMA ADMINISTERED AID TO THE WOUNDED CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL AND GAVE HIM AN IV. MR. DELLWO STATED THAT AT APPROXIMATELY 1830 HOURS, 1LT JAMES AND WO2 LATHAM STATED THEY WERE RETURNING TO THE 1ST MSFB BASECAMP TO GET HELP AND THEY WOULD RETURN.

((3)) AT APPROXIMATELY 1930 HOURS, WO2 PAYNE, ALONG WITH APPROXIMATELY 15 - 20 ETHNIC MINORITY TROOPS, FOUND THEM IN THE HIDE POSITION. MR. PAYNE ASSESSED THAT THE CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL COULD STILL WALK, THEY HAD NO COMMUNICATION CAPABILITY, LITTLE AMMUNITION, AND THE ETHNIC MINORITY TROOPS WERE ANXIOUS TO LEAVE; HE DETERMINED THEY NEEDED TO MAKE THEIR WAY BACK TO THE 1ST MSFB

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BASECAMP. AT APPROXIMATELY 2000 HOURS, THE TEAM DEPARTED THE HIDE POSITION MOVING NORTH-NORTHEAST; MR. PAYNE LED THE TEAM UTILIZING RELATIVELY EASY TERRAIN TO TRAVERSE WHILE STILL USING THE TERRAIN FOR COVER AND CONCEALMENT. BOTH WITNESSES MOVED VERY SLOWLY AS, AT FIRST, THE WOUNDED CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL COULD WALK BUT HAD TO TAKE FREQUENT BREAKS, AND WHENEVER THEY WERE GOING UP A STEEP SLOPE HE WOULD HANG ON SOMEONE'S BACK AND THAT INDIVIDUAL WOULD CRAWL UP THE SLOPE.

((4)) AT APPROXIMATELY 2230 HOURS, MR. PAYNE WAS ABLE TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATIONS WITH AN OVERHEAD AC-130 SPECTRE GUNSHIP, "SPOOKY." HE REQUESTED A MCGUIRE EXTRACTION RIG FOR THE CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL AND BEGAN LOOKING FOR A SUITABLE EXTRACTION POINT. AT APPROXIMATELY 2300 HOURS, THE TEAM MOVED INTO A SUITABLE AREA FOR AN EXTRACTION ON TOP OF A RELATIVELY FLAT SPUR LINE, WITH A GENTLE SLOPE. WHILE WAITING FOR THE EXTRACTION HELICOPTER, THE WOUNDED CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL STOPPED BREATHING AND HAD NO PULSE. MR. DELLWO PERFORMED A TRACHEOTOMY TO GET AIR MOVING TO THE LUNGS, AND MR. AURIEMMA PERFORMED A MANUAL HEART MASSAGE, BUT THEY WERE UNABLE TO REVIVE THE CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL; HE DIED AT APPROXIMATELY 2330 HOURS.

((5)) AFTER THE CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL DIED, MR. PAYNE DETERMINED THAT FOR THE SAFE MOVEMENT OF THE REMAINDER OF HIS TEAM THEY NEEDED TO LEAVE THE CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL THERE. THE TEAM PLACED HIS BODY ON THE EAST SIDE OF A LARGE DEAD TREE, LYING UP AND DOWN SLOPE NORTH TO SOUTH. THE CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL WAS PLACED AGAINST THE TREE WITH HIS HEAD UPSLOPE, WEARING HIS JUNGLE STRIPE UNIFORM, BOOTS, AND A BELT; HE POSSIBLY HAD HIS ID TAGS ON. THEY COVERED THE BODY WITH BRANCHES AND BRUSH.

((6)) MR. DELLWO AND MR. PAYNE WERE UNABLE TO GO BACK FOR THE CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL'S BODY AS THEY WERE BOTH WOUNDED AND TAKEN TO A MEDEVAC HOSPITAL ON 25 MAY 1969. THE REST OF THE 1ST MSFB WAS PULLED OUT OF THE AREA ON 26 MAY 1969.

((7)) THE WITNESSES DID NOT KNOW OF ANY OTHER INCIDENTS INVOLVING UNACCOUNTED-FOR AMERICANS, PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS, AIRCRAFT CRASH SITES, AMERICAN BURIAL SITES, OR AMERICANS WHO REMAINED IN VIETNAM AFTER 1975.

3. MATERIAL EVIDENCE: NONE.

4. SITE SURVEY RESULTS:

A. SITE-RELATED INFORMATION:

(1) GEOPOLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS: RO KOI VILLAGE, SA THAY DISTRICT, KON TUM PROVINCE, S.R.V.

(2) CARIS SITE NUMBER: VM-02597.

(3) MILITARY GRID REFERENCE SYSTEM (MGRS) GRID COORDINATES:

(A) 48P YB 89451 10777 (9 SATELLITES, +/- 6 METERS OF ERROR, 625 METERS OF ELEVATION, AND INDIAN THAILAND DATUM).

(B) 48P YB 89028 11112 (9 SATELLITES, +/- 6 METERS OF ERROR, 627 METERS OF ELEVATION, AND WGS-84 DATUM).

(C) MAP GRID COORDINATES: 48Q YB 895 108 (INDIAN THAILAND).

(4) MAP SHEET DATA: NAME: DAK MOT LOP; SHEET: 6538 III; SERIES: L7014; EDITION: 3-AMS, 1968.

(5) LANDOWNER, LAND RESIDENT, OR TENANT: NATIONAL PRESERVED FOREST MANAGED BY THE SA THAY DISTRICT AUTHORITY.

B. SITE DESCRIPTION AND CONSIDERATIONS:

(1) SITE TYPE: SURFACE REMAINS.

(2) SITE SIZE: 30-X-15 METERS.

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(3) LANDFORM AND TOPOGRAPHIC SETTING: THE SITE IS IN A  
/\*\*\*\*\* BEGINNING OF SECTION 4 \*\*\*\*\*/  
NATIONAL PRESERVED FOREST WITH PRIMARY DOUBLE AND TRIPLE CANOPY, AND  
SECONDARY VEGETATION AT APPROXIMATELY 20-DEGREE SLOPE. SITE IS  
INTERSPERSED WITH SMALL BAMBOO THICKETS. THE RAINY SEASON EXTENDS  
FROM APRIL TO NOVEMBER.

- (4) SITE DISTURBANCE AND LAND USE HISTORY: NONE.
- (5) SURFACE MATERIAL EVIDENCE: NONE.
- (6) INCIDENT-RELATED SURFACE FEATURES: NONE.
- (7) SOIL TYPES: TYPICAL DECAYING JUNGLE MATTER WITH  
UNDERLYING RICH BLACK SOILS.
- (8) RECOMMENDED SCREENING SYSTEM: DRY.
- (9) MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATION: NONE.
- (10) UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO) OBSERVED OR REPORTED: NONE.
- (11) SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: SITE IS ON AN APPROXIMATE 20  
25-DEGREE SLOPE; THERE ARE STEEP APPROXIMATE 60-DEGREE DROP-OFFS ON  
THE EAST, WEST, AND SOUTH SIDES OF THE SITE FOR 20 METERS DOWN TO  
THE DAK RO MAY STREAM.

C. LOGISTICAL AND OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- (1) SITE ACCESSIBILITY: THE SITE IS ACCESSIBLE VIA AN  
APPROXIMATELY 80-MINUTE DRIVE FROM KON TUM CITY, FOLLOWED BY A 20  
MINUTE WALK FROM THE VDP.
- (2) DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST ROAD: APPROXIMATELY 600 METERS.
- (3) NEAREST POPULATED AREA:
  - (A) NAME: RO KOI VILLAGE.
  - (B) DISTANCE FROM SITE: APPROXIMATELY TEN KILOMETERS.
- (4) ESTIMATED AVAILABLE LABORERS: 100 PLUS.
- (5) LANDING ZONE (LZ) RECOMMENDATION: NO POSSIBLE LZ  
LOCATION IN THE VICINITY OF SITE SINCE THE SITE IS IN NATIONAL  
PRESERVED FOREST.
- (6) BASE CAMP RECOMMENDATION:
  - (A) NO POSSIBLE BASE CAMP LOCATION SINCE THE SITE IS IN  
NATIONAL PRESERVED FOREST.
  - (B) WATER SOURCE: PERENNIAL DAK RO MAY STREAM IS  
APPROXIMATELY 300 METERS SOUTHEAST OF THE SITE.
  - (C) HOTEL AVAILABILITY: HOTELS AND GUEST HOUSES ARE  
READILY AVAILABLE IN KON TUM CITY.

5. PERTINENT LOCATION OR DATA CHANGES: NONE.

6. ANALYST COMMENTS:

- (A) BOTH WITNESSES CONFIRMED THE SITE SURVEYED DURING JFA 10 1VM  
(VM-02596) IS NOT THE LOCATION WHERE THE CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL WAS  
LEFT.
- (B) AFTER BEING ON THE GROUND AND COVERING A LARGE AREA OFF THE  
RIDGELINE BETWEEN HILL 668 AND THE ENGAGEMENT AREA AND AFTER  
COMPARING ALL DIFFERENT EXPLORED AREAS, BOTH WITNESSES BELIEVED THE  
SITE SURVEYED DURING THIS JFA AT GC 48P YB 89451 10777 IS THE RIGHT  
AREA WHERE THE CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL WAS LEFT. RECOMMEND  
ESTABLISHING THIS LOCATION AS THE CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL'S RECORD LOSS  
LOCATION.

(C) DURING THE INTERVIEW, THE WITNESSES AND IT1 ANALYSTS USED MAP  
TERRAIN ASSOCIATION AND TIME/DISTANCE ASSOCIATION TO RETRACE THE  
PAYNE-DELLWO-CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL GROUP MOVEMENT BASED ON FRESH  
KNOWLEDGE OF THE TERRAIN AND RECALLING THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH  
THEY WERE MOVING, WOUNDED, TERRAIN, ENEMY IN THE AREA, AND DARKNESS.  
THESE FACTORS SUPPORTED A VERY SLOW MOVEMENT OF APPROXIMATELY 100  
METERS AN HOUR, WHICH CORRELATES WELL WITH THE MOVEMENT FROM THEIR

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START POINT VICINITY GC 48P YB 8935 1057 TO WHERE THEY BELIEVED THEY LEFT THE CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL'S BODY IN THE VICINITY OF GC 48P YB 89451 10777.

(D) THE ETHNIC MINORITY TROOPS WHO ACCOMPANIED THIS GROUP MAY BE ABLE TO HELP CORRELATE THE CASE 1449 INDIVIDUAL'S LOSS LOCATION. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT PAVN 66TH REGIMENT PERSONNEL OR OTHER COMMUNIST PERSONNEL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ENGAGEMENT MIGHT DISCOVERED THE BODY.

7. LIFE SUPPORT INVESTIGATOR COMMENTS: NO LIFE SUPPORT ITEMS RECOVERED OR OBSERVED DURING THIS INVESTIGATION.

8. EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL TECHNICIAN COMMENTS: NO UXO OBSERVED OR DETECTED THROUGHOUT THE SURVEYED AREA.

9. TEAM LEADER COMMENTS.

A. CONCUR WITH ANALYST COMMENTS IN PARAGRAPHS 6 ABOVE.

B. BOTH SURVEYED LOCATIONS ARE LOCATED WITHIN A NATIONAL FOREST.

C. HOST GOVERNMENT COOPERATION/SUPPORT WAS ADEQUATE AT ALL LEVELS. TEAM INCURRED UNNECESSARY LAND COMPENSATION COSTS DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF THIS CASE DUE TO IT BEING IN A NATIONAL FOREST AND UNAPPROVED SITE PREPARATION COSTS.

## ADMIN

BT

#4296

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